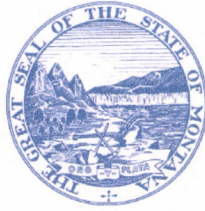


Montana State Senate



The Big Sky Country

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Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

November 5, 2016

RE: Wireless Telecommunications Bureau seeks comment on request for waiver of accelerated final construction deadline for 700MHz licenses in Montana; WT Docket No. 16-319

I represent SD22, here in Montana. Many Montanans live in rural areas where there are few wireless broadband providers. This could be improved I believe if the Commission grants the relief T-Mobile the request for relief, which would provide additional communications choices as well as capital expenditures, particularly in the rural areas and on tribal lands, where communications options and competition are very limited.

It appears T-Mobile is seeking to acquire licenses from Bresnan Communications and the Commission's rules would require T-Mobile to provide services to 35% of the coverage area by December 13, 2016. If under those rules, T-Mobile is unable to meet that requirement (by that date), then the second buildout deadline is accelerated and the company would have to provide service to 70% of the area by June 13, 2017. Montana has had above average precipitation during October, and with that our soils will freeze deeper than average. Our freeze-up dates vary across this vast state (from Mountains to Plains, as well as from the Northern portions of the state to the milder Southern portions). I believe it is unrealistic to expect T-Mobile to be able to meet the 35% requirement in time to avoid the 70% requirement of June 13, 2017, particularly if the Commission does not even approve the assignment of the licenses until after Dec. 13, 2016. In the past communications competitors often elect not to provide service to MT because of the challenges relating to deployment. T-Mobile is apparently working hard to expand its presence in MT and has already demonstrated its commitment to the region by building out facilities in the western part of the state. Because of the unique circumstances here, T-Mobile should be given a reasonable time, as it requests to expand its coverage to meet the 70% requirement. By not allowing this extension will allow the licenses going unused and preventing Montanans from access from wireless broadband service.

Thank you for your consideration. It is my hope that the Commission will promptly grant the relief critical to the citizens of this great state of Montana.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Doug Kary".
Doug Kary

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